

Message Text

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TAGS: SEDU, UNESCO, CSCE

SUBJECT: DRAFT CONVENTION ON RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLO-
MAS AND DEGREES IN STATES OF THE EUROPEAN REGION

REF: PARIS 24078

1. IN VIEW OF THE SLOW AND LIMITED RESPONSE OF MEMBER
STATES OF THE EUROPEAN REGION TO THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT'S
PRELIMINARY DRAFT CONVENTION AND THE DIFFICULTIES WE FORE-
SEE FOR THE U.S. IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED CONVENTION,
UNESCO SECRETARIAT CONCERN THAT CONSENSUS FOR ADOPTION OF
THE CONVENTION MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING SEEMS FULLY WARRANTED.

2. THE PROPOSED CONSULTANTS MEETING COULD BE HELPFUL IN
CLARIFYING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS BUT WE QUESTION THE TIMING.

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PAGE 02 STATE 202385

OCTOBER WILL BE VERY LATE TO DEVISE MEANS FOR OVERCOMING
DIFFICULTIES, GIVEN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMENCEMENT
OCTOBER 25 AND THE GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS MEETING TO DRAFT
THE CONVENTION IN EARLY DECEMBER.

3. WE REQUEST THAT THE PERMDEL CHECK WITH OTHER PERMDELS,
NAMELY CANADA, UK, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, ISRAEL AND FRG RE-

GARDING THE NATURE OF THEIR RESPONSES TO UNESCO

AND THEIR REACTION TO U.S. RESPONSE. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD WELCOME THEIR REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT AN INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATION BE DEVELOPED ON PARALLEL TRACK WITH CONVENTION TO ENABLE MEMBER STATES, WITH A FEDERAL STRUCTURE LIKE OURS, TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR COOPERATING IN THIS INITIATIVE. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR THIS APPROACH. THE CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION THAT WERE DEVELOPED BY UNESCO AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION ARE THE BEST EXAMPLES. MOREOVER THE RATIONALE GIVEN BY DIRECTOR GENERAL CITED ON PAGE 60 OF BUERGENTHAL-TORNEY BOOK, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS RELEVANT AND APPLICABLE. "THERE WAS NO ORIGINAL INTENTION OF FORMULATING A RECOMMENDATION, BUT AT THE TENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REMARKED THAT THEIR FEDERAL STRUCTURE WOULD RENDER DIFFICULT, AND CONSIDERABLY DELAY, THEIR RATIFICATION OF A CONVENTION CONCERNED WITH A MATTER -- EDUCATION -- WHICH IN THEIR COUNTRIES WAS RESERVED FOR THE PROVINCIAL (LOCAL) AUTHORITIES.

"THE SAME COUNTRIES, ON THE OTHER HAND, STATED THAT THE APPLICATION OF A RECOMMENDATION WOULD NOT RAISE THE SAME PROBLEMS, AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GENERAL CONFERENCE DECIDED TO FORMULATE TWO SEPARATE INSTRUMENTS OF DIFFERENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 202385

LEGAL BEARING (SIC) AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION."

4. WE BELIEVE A SURVEY OF OTHER PERMDELS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TIMELY TO ENSURE VALIDITY AND POTENTIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS ALTERNATIVE APPROACH. IF, AS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL, CONSENSUS MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING FOR ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED CONVENTION, THE UNESCO SECRETARIAT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO PROVIDE A FACE SAVING OPTION THAT COULD STILL ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE OPERATING MECHANISMS OF THE PROPOSED CONVENTION.

5. WE ARE PERSUADED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATION WOULD PROVIDE SUCH A MECHANISM AND, ARE PREPARED TO INTRODUCE A DRAFT RESOLUTION AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO THIS EFFECT. WE, THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE PERMDEL'S RESPONSE BY AUGUST 20 IN REGARD HIS VIEWS AND THOSE OF OTHER PERMDELS TO THIS APPROACH.

6. LASTLY, IN REPLY TO PERMDEL'S INQUIRY ABOUT PARTICIPANT TO PROPOSED CONSULTANTS MEETING, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT DR. WANNER AS WE FEEL THAT USG REPRESENTATIVE COULD BEST REFLECT USG VIEWS ON THIS HIGHLY COMPLEX ISSUE. VANCE

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